




MEMORANDUM  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DATE: May 5, 2006

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

FROM:   
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor  
Miami-Dade County

SUBJECT: Resolution Calling Countywide Election with Regard to County Commissioners' Salaries – Board of County Commissioners 5/9/06 agenda item 11(A)(10)

As I have advocated throughout my inaugural election campaign and will continue to maintain, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (Board) deserves a salary increase. I am supportive of, pursuant to the referenced resolution, bringing this ballot question back to the voters in conjunction with a countywide general election scheduled for September 5, 2006. A salary commensurate with the responsibilities of a County Commissioner – including, but not limited to, adopting legislation, approving the County's \$6.8 billion budget, and setting millage rates – is long overdue.

It is a practical concept to set Commissioner salary based on State statutory formula, as pay should correlate with the growth in our population. While Miami-Dade is the largest county in Florida, it is a unfortunate reality that Miami-Dade Commissioner salaries are the lowest in the state. In its current form, the resolution makes no reference to the subject of term limits. Of the top 10 largest counties (Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Orange, Duval, Polk, Brevard and Volusia), term limits are in effect for all but one county (Pinellas). As you know, the Mayor of Miami-Dade County is also subject to a two term limit. Therefore, I believe it is appropriate to urge the Board to amend the resolution so that a provision regarding term limits is included in the ballot language.

The residents of Miami-Dade County are truly privileged to be served by elected officials who commit long hours into what is, in effect, a full-time position and demands so much personal and professional sacrifice. They can rest assured that, regardless of the outcome of this ballot question, your dedication will not waver.

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of Courts  
George Burgess, County Manager  
Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney  
Kay Sullivan, Director, Clerk of the Board